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Fleeting Midsummer - Chapter 01-05

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Chapter 1-Instructions Before Beginning School

Chapter 1-Earnest Instructions before Admission to School

My mom said: “Lin Lin ah, look at how lucky you are, you can even get into Peking University. After you get to college, your first mission is to make sure you aren’t kicked out; your second mission is to lose weight, your third mission is to find a great college boyfriend, to make sure that even if you guys don’t have this kind of luck next generation, you can lean on our genetic inheritance and go to a prestigious college.”

This was what my mom said to me when she sent me off at the train station.

Why did my mom only send me to the train station, and not go with me to the school? That was because my mom saw our whole town’s top student on television; the person who had tested into the exact same college as I had was a guy, and he was even a pretty guy. My mom loved pretty boys, her old idol had been Wang Bing. She went through numerous channels to get that person’s number, then she called them herself: “Hello? Is this classmate Fang Yu Ke. Hi. I am Zhou Lin Lin’s mom. It’s like this, didn’t my Lin Lin test into the same college you did.....Oh, you’re not familiar with the place. No problem, no problem. After you go around a bit you’ll be familiar with it. Concerning my Lin Lin, this is her first time going to a far away place, but me and her dad joined a travel group. Thus, could you do me a favor and care for my Lin Lin for a while. Please. If there’s time you can come to auntie’s house.”

I sat next to her, shy, what travel group, I had no impressions. If she was willing to pay money to go travelling, the sun might as well have come up from the western side. And then there was Fang Yu Ke, even though we were classmates, our rotten school with weighty studies and a simple culture, had made it into something that resembled a palace, while us art students were put in a lonely corner, with about the same amount of land as the palace girls. Even though we were classmates for three years, I had never greeted him, and could only look at him from far away when the school awards were given out. I only knew that he had been named “School Grass” [1] by our school girls, and I heard he was our

head's grandson. He, of course, never lost the head's face and always would receive a ×× first place award. The glass window in our school always posted his photo and next to that was written his birthday, 7/18/1984; ×× year he had been named the "Good Student", ×× year × month in which he had received an award.

I used to say some fun things with my girlfriend: "That picture looks so much like the first generation ID cards, compared to those remarks, the whole of it is an obituary. It's fortunate that our town doesn't have a recommended-for-admission quota, or else this kind of person wouldn't even need to take the Gao Kao [2], and would immediately go to Tsinghua University or Peking University. I heard that once the Gao Kao grades are out, Peking University is going to call him and let him choose his department. To be with this kind of person carries too much pressure, plus he will definitely not look upon someone like me. Alas, after I go to Peking University people everywhere will be like him. Just thinking about it, I feel bigheaded. As the saying goes, I would rather be a chicken's head than a phoenix's tail [3], what's the point of registering for Peking University for the family line only to regret it?"

Saying this, before the Gao Kao, my grades went along a wavy line, sometimes it would be twice the amount of my valleys (lower grades). I had even drawn a line chart for everytime I tested. According to the direction of the line chart, my Gao Kao grade should have dipped into a valley. I didn't think that my Gao Kao grade would exceed my daily trend, and rush to the top of Mount Everest, so when I received my Gao Kao grade via a short text, and saw a number of zeros and the two digit number, I kept feeling that the text could have made a mistake.

At the household meeting, I repeatedly asked my mom: "I was 28th in the province? Really? Really?"

My mom stared at me: "You've thought about examination places to the point of being crazy right? How could it be possible, it must be that your school is in 28th place."

That was when my prudent father spoke up: "She's in front of so many 0's, it looks like it should be out of 100 of 100,000s of students, so following this line of thinking, it should be the province rankings."

After the whole scene quieted for about a minute, my mom quickly took the

phone and called my big aunt: “Big sister, a big meat pie [4] has hit my home’s Lin Lin!”

First it was the Gao Kao and then it was ambitions at an institution which had somehow been hacked by me-through the loopholes.

The moment I entered the train car, I found that there was already a guy sitting across from me. His white, clean face, wore a pair of black rimmed glasses, he looked a little like the famous Fang Da Si. One hand flipped a copy of “National Geographic”, and his other hand was twirling a ballpoint pen. Really, while he looked at “National Geographic”, he just *had* to hold a pen.

I tentatively asked: “Are you Fang Yu Ke?”

He raised his head, the pen in his hand never stopped: “Mm, that’s me.”

I immediately threw out my biggest smile: “Hello, hello. I am Zhou Lin Lin. Please take care of me.” When I finished I immediately took out my stack of snacks and put them on Xiao Fang’s table to let him eat. Fang Yu Ke coldly said “Nice to meet you” and continued flipping through his magazine.

Not too long afterwards, I heard a sound of knocking glass, I turned, it was my mom. She blinked to me and protruded her lip towards Fang Yu Ke, and made a “You can do it!” gesture. I gave a hopeless breath and rolled my eyes, and I angrily said: “Can you stop?”

This time, I scared the person wrapped up in his book, Fang Yu Ke. He stared at my angry face and said: “If a girl’s temper is too heavy she won’t be able to marry.” He didn’t wait for me to reply before he went back to his book again.

The train finally thundered forward. I couldn’t come up with anything to say so, I grabbed a copy of “Salon” [1], I flipped through a few pages and felt extremely bored, I didn’t have anything to say but I tried to find something and asked: “Fang Yu Ke, how did you get into Peking University?”

Fang Yu Ke didn’t lift his head, and continued to twirl the pen: “Before I was always the first in the school, so this is normal.”

“Oh. It’s lucky that I dazedly also tested in, otherwise you would be the only person who made it in of the whole town, then, how lonely would you be? Hehe.” I laughed, in actuality, my wound had been ripped open again and

sprinkled with salt (*she was trying to make conversation but he just backstabbed her so brutally oo*).

Throughout the whole train ride, I lonesomely sent short texts, looked through “Salon”, ate chicken, I had nothing much to do. But Fang Yu Ke was like a statue who sat opposite me, reading his book, if it wasn’t for his twirling pen, I would have suspected he wasn’t a living creature. In the end, I became drowsy, lay on the small table, and fell asleep. Within my haze, I was woken up by Fang Yu Ke: “Hey, you can go to the berth to sleep.” I wiped away the saliva on my mouth, and trudged to the back, I didn’t even take off my shoes, I just lay on the berth not conscious of anything else. When I woke up, Fang Yu Ke who was opposite me was reading again. What a nerd.

After it had passed a little more than ten hours, the train finally reached its stop.

Thus we arrived at school early on a Sunday, the train station didn’t pick up our classmates. Fang Yu Ke and I called for a car to take us directly to Peking University. The taxi driver and I chatted very amiably, Fang Yu Ke was like ice at my side, cooling the atmosphere. When I had someone to talk to, the time passed quickly and I felt it hadn’t passed too long before the driver said that we had arrived. I got off the car, when I looked up I could see the four classic words “Peking University” that I had often seen on TV.

I threw my suitcase aside, and stood under the big plaque, I told Fang Yu Ke: “Classmate Fang Yu ke, help me take some pictures. If the developed picture doesn’t have me in it, it will tell me that I am really dreaming.”

Fang Yu Ke saw my idiotic expression, he shook his head saying to me: “Can you not be so childish?”

I laughed: ‘That’s not the same, you guys look at Peking University like you’ve seen your family. When you were born it was already determined that you were a Peking University person, and you don’t have any feelings for it. I am not the same. I am a stalk of grass that was married into this wealthy family. I don’t know if other wealthy people are regretful. If I’m kicked out, this picture will be evidence of my marriage, it can prove that I used to live a wealthy life.’

[1] School Grass: The handsomest boy in the school. You can compare it to the saying “This is the greenest pasture” but replace greenest pasture with “hottest guys”

[2] Gao Kao: Chinese SAT

[3] I would rather be a chicken’s head than a phoenix’s tail: Basically compare this to “I would rather be first at Purdue (an average college) than last in Harvard (an outstanding college).”

[4] Big meat pie: Luck

For future reference, Beijing University is equivalent to Peking University. Most westerners refer to the Uni as Peking University (and it has also become the official name of the uni), but the correct pronunciation and pinyin of the University is Beijing University. I use Peking/Beijing interchangeably in the first few chapters, but later it reverts to Peking University.

Chapter 2.1-Entering the Campus

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Inside the school everything was new. I was like [Granny Liu when she entered the Grand View Garden](#) [2], and I looked at that, and touched that. I hated that I couldn't take a picture of the whole landscape. Fang Yu Ke was probably feeling like I was disgracing him, and said: "Sit here. I'll give a classmate a phone call, and let him pick us up. On such a hot day, you aren't afraid of the sun."

I did a surprised face: "Wow, Fang Yu Ke, you can continuously speak to me in four sentences. That's not easy, not easy."

Fang Yu Ke glared at me, lowering his head, not speaking.

We didn't sit under the shade for long before someone patted Fang Yu Ke and asked: "Why did you get here early?"

I lifted my head, I couldn't see his face from under the sun. After a while I

shook my head and stood up: “Hello senior brother! [3]”

Senior brother laughed and said to Fang Yu Ke: “You even brought your family members over?”

Fang Yu Ke pushed brother’s shoulder and softly said, “What nonsense.” After this push, brother finally stood under the tree’s shade and I could see brother’s face clearly. Small eyes, a pointed nose, a small dimple, a pointed chin. Sunlight fell through the tree leaves and fell on the senior brother’s face.

My heart jumped around a little seriously. I sucked in my saliva and blurted: “Senior brothers? What are their names?”

Fang Yu Ke rolled his eyes, and said: “Call them your senior brothers, they aren’t your department senior brothers anyways. They’re only people from our town. You don’t know them.”

[1] “Salon” magazine: An entertainment magazine

[2] Granny Liu when she entered the Grand View Garden: Granny Liu is a character from “[红楼梦](#)” or “Dream of the Red Chamber”; the scene Lin Lin is referring to, is the scene where Granny Liu goes to visit the rich mansion, each time (most likely) gasping in wonder at all the splendor around her.

[3] Senior brother: Term for classmates

Chapter 2.2-Entering the Campus

Chapter 2.2-Entering the Campus

I immediately followed with : “My eyes brim with tears. We are fellow neighbors, old neighbors meeting each other. It’s not a senior brother that has a relationship to me directly, but rather, a relative to the direct descendant!”

Senior brother warmly laughed, and turned his head to say to me: “To tell you the truth, just call me Xiao Xi.”

Fang Yu Ke flattened his lip: “You only came out for a little while and your eyes are already brimming with tears for meeting an old neighbor.”

I pretended I didn’t hear him, and laughed to senior brother: “Xiao Xi, I’m called Zhou Lin Lin, I’m learning German, what are you learning?”

Senior brother hadn’t said anything yet before Fang Yu Ke said: “I told you he was even my senior classmate. I’m studying economics, so he’s also studying economics. Idiot.”

Senior brother laughed, and his dimples got deeper: “I am higher than both of you.”

I immediately followed with: “Well economics is good, economics is good. Our country’s great economic development completely relies on you. How is it like the capitalist stuff we read. I initially wanted to study economics, but I didn’t test well this time, only missing by that many points, so I switched to this profession.”

Fang Yu Ke turned his head to me and glanced at me, his expression obviously saying “You’re all right, right?”.

I automatically filtered out his surprised face, and continued to exchange feelings with Xiao Xi: “Xiao Xi, in the future, you must help me more with my math problems, math is my weakness.”

Xiao Xi laughed again: “Your German Department exempted mathematics, relax.”

Fang Yu Ke who was by the side couldn't help it, and laughed haha, putting me to one side, watching me as if I was a joke.

Since the strict rules didn't allow us to get the keys for the dormitory because the registration day hadn't arrived yet, we could only find nearby hotels. Xiao Xi brought our suitcases to his dormitory and began to contact nearby hotels. I didn't think that so many people would come to school early, and all the big and small hotels nearby were full. Only one large room was left in a guesthouse located inside the school was available. I looked plaintively at Xiao Xi.

Xiao Xi said, conflicted: "If only Yu Ke had called me earlier, I could book it in advance. Now it's a little late. You guys live there for two days, or improvise, improvise. I can vouch for Fang Yu Ke's character. You—"

I immediately cut Xiao Xi off: "What about Fang Yu Ke goes to live with you, and I live in the guestroom."

Xiao Xi thought about it: "We usually don't return home for summer break, there are a lot of guys and girls living in the dormitory together. The Dorm Manager doesn't care. The beds are a little more tight than the ones in the guesthouse. But, it is indeed very inconvenient for a girl like you. Then what about this, Yu Ke, you come with me and share a bed with me."

Fang Yu Ke said: "I have no complaints."

I looked at the meter wide bed (in Xiao Xi's dormitory) and immediately felt embarrassed. In the great summer, the dormitory didn't have space, and I was making two big guys squeeze together here. This was indeed not okay. Plus, they had knew each other earlier, and I had been someone dragged along from the beginning. I fussily let the others make do, while I chose. Otherwise, being alone lying on three beds was a little bit of a waste.....

I plucked up my courage: "Then what about this, Xiao Xi, all three of us can live in the guesthouse. Anyways, there's the air conditioning part."

Fang Yu Ke gave a crooked expression and lightly said: "You use your abacus [1] so well, how can you not be good at math?"

I turned back to lightly curse back at him: "None of your business."

Xiao Xi laughed: "If you are worried about our Fang Yu Ke, I can go. Really, our

Fang Yu Ke is really upright.”

Fang Yu Ke cupped one fist inside of the other (as a sign of respect, especially in ancient times), and passionately hit Xiao Xi’s shoulder.

Xiao Xi gave the final word: “All right, then we’ll arrange it like this.”

Just before arriving, Xiao Xi received a phone call, and went to help a classmate fiddle with his computer. Fang Yu Ke and I just entered the guestroom and hadn’t sat down before my mom called me. I walked towards the bathroom while answering her call.

“Lin Lin, are you used to where you’re living?”

[1] abacus: 算盤 (suen pan); also means scheme or strategy. Thus, Fang Yu Ke’s sentence could have had two meanings at the same time. He could have also been saying: “You scheme so well...” while saying “You use your abacus so well...”

Chapter 2.3-Entering the Campus

Chapter 2.3-Entering the Campus

I said: “All right. They can’t give the dormitory keys away beforehand, so we can only stay at a guesthouse.”

My mom said: “Oh, Fang Yu Ke is still taking care of you. Are you living next door to him?”

I paused for a breath: “Mom, he is sleeping in my guesthouse, and we are even in the same house.” After the “Ah!” sound from the other side of the phone, I quietly hung up the phone.

A short while later, my mom sent me a text: Lin Lin, even though I really like that rascal, in fact, we really haven’t thoroughly investigated him. You must think through many things. Impulse is the devil.

I reluctantly returned her: Mom, I promise that in the future I will stay intact.

It passed a long time before the elderly returned me: Really, young people having passion isn’t a bad thing. Go for it!

I ran into my room, loudly shouting “Ah!”. After the time span between me and my mom’s consistent “Ah”, I let it go.

Fang Yu Ke lightly scolded me with one sentence: “Idiot.”

I grabbed a pillow and hit him on the head: “What are you cursing about?”

Fang Yu Ke whistled as he stood up: “I won’t theorize with idiots.” After he said this, he walked out.

In my anger, I used strength to kick the bed legs in return for longer cries of agony.

I lay on the bed, extremely annoyed. I thought of my mom’s crazy words, and then thought about Xiao Xi. I didn’t know if it was because I had been tired in the daytime, but I fell asleep.

When I woke up, it had already become dark outside. I rubbed my face and got

out of bed, dazed, leaning on the door I squinted my eyes. I didn't expect people wouldn't lean on leisure, when the door was suddenly pushed open strongly. The door just happened to hit my nose, and I instantly felt two streams of heat flow out.

Outside the door was Fang Yu Ke's surprised face. Xiao Xi and him came inside together, and saw my battle. They immediately said: "Go lie down, go lie down."

So it was like this that I got off of the bed, but was put back onto the bed.

At first, I had a belly of fire that was going to explode towards Fang Yu Ke, but given that Xiao Xi was there, I pressed down my belly's anger, and pretended to say like a generous lady: "In the future, I am afraid to go stand near the door. It's too dangerous."

Fang Yu Ke said one sentence: "Idiot, I've never seen anyone who was so dumb that they lay on the door frame."

The moment I heard this, my fire exploded. I deeply sighed, and bit my teeth saying: "So sorry, I blocked your majesty's path."

Fang Yu Ke stuck out his lips and didn't speak. He turned and went to the bathroom to wash his towel.

Xiao Xi brought some tampons over from the dormitory Auntie's place, and said to me: "It's not too convenient for me, you shove it in yourself."

I felt that I was already not very good looking, and that I would have even less of a figure with the tampons in my nose. I covered my nose with one hand, my other hand busily putting the tampons in, saying: "No need, no need, my blood is good. It will immediately automatically stop. It doesn't need to be so complicated.

I hadn't even finished speaking before Fang Yu Ke grabbed a wet towel and came over, and immediately said: "You want your reputation when you're dead, and suffer a crime while alive [1]." Then he threw the towel towards my face, "Go ahead, after a while it'll stop."

Originally, during this time, Xiao Xi and Fang Yu Ke came over to ask me to go eat with them. I didn't think that after this thing happened, they could only take care of my injuries. The room was extremely quiet, there was only the sound of

Xiao Xi and Fang Yu Ke flipping through magazines. I looked at the ceiling, bored, and prepared to open the TV, to spend the time, when my stomach suddenly sang “Empty City Stratagem” [2]. After that sound, I regretted. If I had only opened the TV ten minutes before, then I wouldn’t have been so embarrassed. My image ah, my image in Xiao Xi’s heart ah.

Xiao Xi laughed: “What about I go to the cafeteria to bring the meal over. Let’s eat in here. I originally wanted to treat you guys out to eat but I didn’t think Lin Lin had such a great fortune.”

This call of “Lin Lin” made me feel very flattered. I quickly followed with: “No problem, no problem. You can Fang Yu Ke can go, don’t think about me at all. I can put up with whatever.” I had just finished when my stomach contradicted me strongly and called out again. I was a little embarrassed.

Fang Yu Ke couldn’t continue to watch this: “Xiao Xi, let’s go, I’ll go with you to order some food.”

I turned my face backwards and stuck out my tongue. Today I had thrown away my face (reputation) all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

[1] You want your reputation when you’re dead, and suffer a crime while alive: Basically saying that she should set aside her reputation and do what she must.

[2] Empty City Stratagem: (in which Zhuge Liang presents himself as unperturbed while making it evident that his city is undefended, hoping his adversary will suspect an ambush) in this case it refers to Lin Lin trying to hide her obvious hunger.

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After the food came back, my nose was all better. Fang Yu Ke grabbed a napkin and began wiping the table. I lightly said, “Mysophobe (a person with an abnormal fear of dirt and contamination).” He usually just put me aside, and put the meal directly on the table. He didn’t even wash his hands, grabbing chopsticks, starting to eat. How could it be so troublesome? Fang Yu ke looked at me, didn’t speak, and continued to steadily bring out more and more lunch bags.

Two vegetable meals, two meat meals, one bowl of soup, three bowls of rice. I glared at the pork for a long time, swallowing my saliva, directing my chopsticks towards the cauliflower. There were really too many rules to a lady’s etiquette. One couldn’t even eat a piece of meat. My heart burst with resentment, resentment to chewing cauliflower, while also staring at the pork.

After a while, Xiao Xi said: “Lin Lin, how can you just eat vegetables? Eat some meat. You bled so much today, you should still make up for some of your blood.”

I immediately waved my hands: “No no no, I will just eat vegetables. I am a vegetarian.”

Fang Yu Ke who had been drinking soup choked, coughing desperately. His whole face went red. He gasped and said: “Ah. She’s a vegetarian. When she went on the train she bought a bag of chicken feet and gave them away to others.”

I glared at him, lest he say the wrong thing. That was right, on the train, I did read Salon for the whole night, and I also ate chicken feet for the whole night, but what did it matter to him. He just had an extra mouth. Didn’t he not talk for the whole train ride? Why did he suddenly start gabbling? I rolled my eyes: “The chicken feet were bought by my mother. She suspected that I don’t usually like to eat meat, and wouldn’t grow, so she shoved a big bag in. My mom is just a little bad at that part, always thinking that I’m too skinny. I hate that I can’t gain

8-10 kilograms in just an instant. There's no way to do so, so I can only bring her well wishes along." I kept repenting to mom while looking threateningly at Fang Yu Ke.

Fang Yu Ke looked at me, forthright, and said to Xiao Xi: "Her mom is probably more optimistic. She's (Lin Lin) already like this, and she (Lin Lin's Mom) still thinks she's too skinny."

When it was nighttime and time to sleep, I was placed on the innermost bed. As for the middle bed, no one said who was going to sleep there, and I was embarrassed to ask. I waited for Xiao Xi to go bath, and then I pulled Fang Yu Ke's sleeve, throwing in the classic movie line of: "Fang Yu Ke, from the moment I've known you to now, have I ever asked you any favors before?"

Fang Yu Ke looked at me: "You've only known me for two days. Usually how many things do you ask for?"

I was speechless, and could only bring out the final resort: "I don't care, but you're like an old lady that's all."

"What do you want?"

"Very simple, you just need to sleep at the very edge of the bed."

Fang Yu Ke looked at the bed, then he looked at me: "Do you have anything against me?"

I immediately shook my head: "What can I have against you. It's just that I was thinking that we've already been face to face for so long on the train, so I'm afraid that for you, familiarity will breed fondness (love feelings). I have very specialized feelings so I won't be good with just anyone."

Fang Yu Ke laughed: "Idiot."

Since I had slept for so long in the afternoon, at night when the nights went out, I didn't feel like sleeping at all. Xiao Xi slept in the bed beside me. When the moonlight shone, his face was even more softened. The night was really good, I could observe a person without any hindrances. Fang Yu Ke that rascal was still considered gullible. He could fulfill my wish and lie to the other side. When I thought to here, I laughed haha.

It just happened that Yao Zi sent me a short text, asking me how my new surroundings were. I was excited, secretly put on my slippers and went out to the balcony, and I called her: “Yao Zi, do you believe love at first sight? What is it like to like someone?”

Yao Zi had already become excited on the other end: “It can’t be? How did you fall in love even before school began? Who is it that is love at first sight?”

I coyly said: “I also think it’s too fast. I haven’t even prepared for it yet, but I didn’t think that the meat pie would hit my head again [1]. Say, how much kindness and generosity do you think my ancestors accumulated over the years?”

Yao Zi heartily laughed: “Lin Lin, what kind of a man made your heart so moved. Usually, you’re casually with other guys. How did you fall in the river of love so quickly? It really is a day for raining brides, and marriage. The marriage is coming, and it can’t be stopped no matter what.”

I laughed heehee: “He isn’t very handsome, but he’s the very gentle type. You know? Like when he laughs, it’s very warm, that type. Hahahaha. When he laughs he also has dimples. When he talks, his voice is a little husky, but it’s the magnetic husky type. I’ll tell you one.” Then, I started imitating his voice. On the other end, Yao Zi already couldn’t help herself. “Ai ya, just start being horny all right. Pursue him well and bring him back for the New Year.”

I immediately accepted the command, “Yes sir, I will definitely not let down the opposite party’s trust. I am determined to win.” After I finished, full of silly happiness, I hung up the phone. I secretly slipped back into the room. When I closed the door, Fang Yu Ke turned around. In the darkness his eyes were particularly bright from the moonlight. I was startled and lowly scolded: “People scare people, this can kill someone of fright all right?”

Fang Yu Ke scoffed, and didn’t speak. After a time, a sentence of “Idiot” popped out from Fang Yu Ke’s side. F**k! Talking in your sleep also includes cursing!

[1] Meat pie-refers to a great stroke of fortune (as mentioned in the first chapter when Lin Lin’s mom calls up her family to tell them how lucky Lin Lin is)

Also if you guys remember, Salon is the magazine she was reading on the train.

Chapter 3.1-Preparing for the Beginning of School

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The second day, the moment I woke up, the bed next to me had already neatly folded its bedding. When I looked at my watch, it was already half past ten. I withstood my fuzzy mental capability before going to the bathroom, swaying and lurching. Fang Yu Ke just happened to come out from the bathroom, holding a bunch of grapes. He looked at my hair style and frowned: "Were you sleeping or making bombs? Why is it that every time you wake up, you always have this type of hair style?"

I glared at him: "None of your business." When I finished, I mercilessly slammed the bathroom door. I looked at myself in the mirror, and it was indeed a little scary. My hair looked like Lion King, spread out in all directions. My forehead even had a red mark on it. I patted my face, confidently telling myself: "The maiden waking up from a dream, when did you start getting more and more great from the ancient times to now?"

After I finished washing up, Xiao Xi and Fang Yu Ke were already watching TV in the room. When they saw me come over, Fang Yu Ke pointed at the grapes at the table: "Eat some fruit. People that are too grouchy need to get rid of all that fire. Careful that you don't grow any pimples."

I picked some grapes. It had been a long time since I had eaten fresh fruit, so sweet.

Xiao Xi asked me: "Do you still want to eat breakfast?"

I immediately made a blush-like appearance: "Xiao Xi, I'm really sorry. Usually I wake up pretty early, but maybe it was because I wasn't used to the bed. Last night I didn't sleep well. This sleep went all the way to the afternoon. So don't make fun of me anymore."

Xiao Xi laughed, exposing his nice dimples: "In the school, a lot of people's days go from 5 to 9. In the morning at 5:00 they will sleep, in the nighttime at 9:00, they will wake up. Day and night are reversed.

I pretended to have a clear understanding: “I understand, I understand. Learning in the evening is more efficient.”

Xiao Xi shyly touched his head, and lowly laughed: “Haha, really everyone plays online games. Usually we will suddenly begin learning right before the test.”

I couldn’t react quickly enough. I didn’t know if I should say this game was good or not good, because I didn’t play games, but I also hated learning. So I could only turn the light towards Fang Yu Ke. My heart still scheming, if I should learn how to play games to narrow the distance between me and Xiao Xi.

Fang Yu Ke glanced at me, and said to me: “I advise you to still study hard. Don’t go play online games. Your brain can only handle one semester exam in a school year. Don’t belike others and cram. It isn’t that easy to hug Buddha’s feet [1].”

I angrily said: “How long have you known me? What’s wrong with my head? You don’t know how smart and clever I usually am. Otherwise how would I have tested in?”

Fang Yu Ke deflated his lip and didn’t speak. After a long time, he gave me a bunch of words that made me mad: “Usually, before the test, you only got into the top 20 places two times right? The top 20 places are usually the same people. We’re all pretty much very familiar with each other. I also heard of your name before. Aren’t you the type of person who will be in 20th place at one point, and go down to 120th place?”

I angrily retorted: “What’s wrong with 120th place? The day I got 120th place, I had a very high fever.”

I hadn’t even finished when Xiao Xi interrupted me: “Yu Ke, how do you know Lin Lin got 120th place? You rascal, do you usually keep your eyes on her?”

I immediately said: “Impossible, impossible, Xiao Xi don’t joke around. Me knowing him has only been a two day thing. He is only guessing. I actually did get 120th place. That day, I really did have a fever, so I didn’t test well, haha, I didn’t test well.”

[1] Buddha’s feet: Success

Chapter 3.2-Preparing for the Beginning of School

Chapter 3.2-Preparing for the Beginning of School

She didn't know what was wrong with Fang Yu Ke, but his small white face became quite red.

She used her hand to touch him: "You're okay right? The time I got 120th place, I really did have a high fever, and I didn't pass mathematics."

Fang Yu Ke drank a cup of a beverage and lowered his head: "I know." He paused for a moment, but was afraid we didn't hear it and added, "I know now."

The days passed like this for two more days when the days of preparing for school finally came.

Peking University's South Door extended its doors and it became bustling with activity. Half of the people were immature students like me, the other half was the parents who were more excited than the students. Xiao Xi had already went to the train station to pick up their younger brother and sister students (people in school are very colloquial with each other in China, term does not refer to blood relations). Me and Fang Yu Ke went our own ways, looking for our own organizations. After I found the School of Foreign Languages, picked up my keys, medical card, new guidelines, and a bunch of other trash, I excitedly rushed towards my dormitory.

The meatpie hit my head again [1], haha, I lived in a new building. The most important part was that the school had planned for me to live in a place by the window, and opposite the window was Xiao Xi's dormitory building. This way, I could always see when Xiao Xi left, and when he returned. Extremely pleased, I went to the balcony outside the window, stretched, when I suddenly saw a familiar figure at the opposite dormitory balcony. I immediately took out my glasses from my bag, and looked. I originally thought I had luck but now my heart sank. That was right, the person opposite from me was that poisonous mouthed Fang Yu Ke!

Fang Yu Ke just happened to look up and see me. But he was much calmer.

Like he had nothing to do. He expressionlessly turned back to his dormitory, leaving me standing alone on the balcony, grinding my teeth.

It hadn't passed too long before the other three people in the dormitory also came successively. The person living underneath me was a maiden from Jiangxi province (located in southern China) called Wen Tao, her nickname was A Tao. I didn't know if she had tanned her skin dark or if her skin was always so dark, but this made her teeth exceptionally white. The top bunk across from me was a Beijing maiden. She was dressed particularly mature, with brown eyes, thick lips, and her name was also very mature, Julie, like Angelina Jolie. The bottom bunk across from me was a Shanghai maiden. Her figure was very hot and beautiful, and she was called Wang Jie. Everyone was brought over by their parents; there was only me all alone-it was particularly bleak. The Shanghai mother especially passionately sold her daughter away: "Our family's Jie'er is usually more shy, and can't really speak to strangers. But she's really good to her friends. All her friends all say that my Jie'er is the best." My heart thought, aren't all of these lies. In front of you, can friends say that your daughter isn't good, how stupid would that be? But the Shanghai mother didn't care about how we reacted to it, and continued to say: I picked the name Jie'er. That "Jie" character is seen less. It isn't the Jie from Czech Republic, but it is the Jie as in "Jie Yu". Do you know what that means? The other people all didn't speak. Only I instinctively shook my head. The moment the Shanghai mother saw my reaction she explained, very satisfied.

Besides the Beijing mother, the other mothers all began to throw books onto the shelves. The moment I glanced over, I thought 'oh boy'. Wang Jie's table was full of piles of sheet music, Wen Tao's table was filled with literary history. Only my book shelf didn't have any books on it at all, bare except for a cup for brushing my teeth. Wen Tao's mom secretly asked: "A Tao, does that Zhou Lin Lin have any family problems or a single mother or is she an orphan? Why did she come by herself from so far away?" I was angry, and immediately took out my cell phone to call Fang Yu Ke.

This rascal actually answered the phone pretty quickly: "What's the matter?"

I began to put on an act: "Big brother, have you reached the train station? The past two days you didn't even help me settle down yet! When you get home, tell

dad and mom a bit of how things are going.”

“Idiot!”

The other side had already hung up. I hung up too, and suddenly thought, Why did I call that rascal? My family didn’t even have difficulties, both my dad and mom were alive. Couldn’t I just have called my father and mother? I had really become an idiot from all of Fang Yu Ke’s cursing!

The admission day and the second day, were all days of the newbie physical examination. I grabbed a Peking University map slowly going around the University. Where was the university hospital? Alas, if only I had my parents to accompany me. All the other dormitory mates didn’t even need to worry, their parents had probably already asked around for it. Today they would even have time to go shopping and look around at the scenery. I walked around, swaying, following my ability to read a map. I was afraid I would be turning for a while. In the end I made my way to a crossroads that made me very uncertain. Oh well, I could only use the large crowds to my advantage. I blocked the path of two people whose age looked like they had both gone through many great changes. These people were dressed like they had been at Peking University for many years. Before I came to Peking University, my mom told me to say things a little politer and a little nicer. Thus, I drew out the words “Miss” the two words [2] a little longer. After I finished even I wanted to puke, but my old mom’s words actually worked.

That face that had been hit with countless wrinkles and folds immediately bloomed into a big flower [3]. She said: “Ah you, only need to keep following this path. You make a left, another left, and another left, and then yOu’ll see it.” I expressed my extreme gratitude and followed the way her hand had pointed out. After I got to the school hospital, I felt that the face with a big flower had really laughed to the point of being evil. At the time, I regretted that I couldn’t have tossed her out or leaned on myself. Because I had walked in a full circle, and found that school hospital was actually right next to the crossroads where I had asked for the way. It was in this way that I winded around in a big circle, rather foolishly.

I collected all kinds of information while also beginning to think about it all: My height and weight was smaller than others. So first I would start from there.

Taking my blood that would probably be under control, but if I got dizzy, I could at least finish 95% of the exam even before I had to be lifted back. I was very satisfied with my coordination arrangements.

When they were ranking our heights, weights of the others, I purposely glanced at the person in front of me. The doctor measuring his height and weight was more careful. He actually just had to fill out the whole packet, as if we were illiterate. I watched those girls in front of me. I hated that I couldn't be 165 cm, 45 kg. When it got to me, the doctor unwillingly got up and lowered the measuring bar [4], rigidly saying: "157 cm, 52 kg."

Panicking, I snatched the report, and turned around to run. I hadn't even run a few steps before I bumped into someone. I quickly apologized: "Sorry, I need to pass by."

"Idiot." A familiar cold voice.

[1] meatpie hit my head: In case you don't remember, meatpie refers to good luck that hits you at the right time.

[2] 小姐 xiaojie "Miss" in Chinese is two words.

[3] "immediately bloomed into a big flower"- means that her face has become super super super happy and patronizing

Chapter 3.3-Preparing for the Beginning of School

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I looked up, f**k, why was it the inevitable clash between enemies. Just now, I had obviously investigated clearly. There were only girls nearby. I snappishly said: “Are you a person or a ghost, so elusive.”

Fang Yu Ke didn’t fuss with me, he gave a ‘qie’ [1], and told the girl beside me: “Let’s go.”

Only then did I notice that a girl stood beside him. From one glance, she was the master of the 165 cm, 45 kg stereotype. She shot a laugh at me, and said to Fang Yu Ke: “Why don’t you introduce us?”

Fang Yu Ke bulged his lip: “Zhou Lin Lin, German Department.” Then he turned towards that girl. She didn’t wait for Fang Yu Ke to introduce her, when she warmly smiled at me. I found that when she laughed she had some shallow dimples.

“My name is Ru Ting, everyone is used to calling me Ting’er. I am studying Spanish, and we’re even in the same college. Yesterday, he went to the examination by himself. Today I pulled him over. I am afraid of blood tests, but this guy has his head in the game.” She said as she tugged at Fang Yu Ke’s sleeve.

“The blood test area isn’t here, it’s in that small white building over there.” I pointed at the “Cave of the Devil”.

“Haha, I know, but just now I saw Yu Ke keep looking over here, so I pulled him over.”

Yo, she even called him “Yu Ke”, their relationship wasn’t ordinary. But Xiao Xi also called me “Lin Lin”, haha. I gave a self-satisfied smile.

“Idiot.” It was Fang Yu Ke’s voice again. I had already surrendered to him, couldn’t he say some fresh new words? I rolled my eyes, and smiled to Ru Ting maiden saying: “Then I won’t bother you two, I’ll go to the other examination rooms. When I have time we can eat together.”

Ru Ting answered very quickly: “Sure. Yu Ke’s friends are my friends.”

The medical examinations were really very long. When it came to the last event, drawing blood, it was already 2:00pm. I had just entered the “Cave of the Devil”, when I saw people being carried away. The doctor that passed by even said: “In this session, if it wasn’t fainting from the needle, then it was probably fainting from the blood, ah, that’s crying and trouble. The little kids of this generation have really been too spoiled. So we need to pierce them a bit and clear their bones.” Hearing this, my hairs all stood up, and I crouched at one side to calm down.

I looked at the report. There was only a single number missing. I hated that I couldn’t have filled it in, and finished everything. But after I thought to here, if I was tested, I would be found a fraud. Before I even began my wealthy life I would be kicked out. I had almost pinched the report and made it damp, over the course of my wavering spirit. When I had crouched until my feet were almost numb, I saw Fang Yu Ke and Ru Ting.

Ru Ting’s face was very very pale, and held Fang Yu Ke’s hand tightly, lightly saying: “See my hand is so cold, Yu Ke, I’m afraid of needles, you know this. I’ve been afraid of needles since childhood.”

Fang Yu Ke turned and patted Ru Ting’s shoulder: “Don’t be afraid. This is something that happens in the blink of an eye. It will pass in a split second.”

That rascal. Talking so warmly to other girls, but being like an icy mountain when he talked to me; afraid that he wouldn’t make me mad, acting as if I wasn’t a girl! With that being said, I had began to follow his line of logic as a form of self comfort. It was something that happened in a second. You couldn’t be too excessive when killing someone or else you would touch the ground. You just had to reach out your neck a bit, and it would end immediately [2]. This old woman (referring to herself) had got into Peking University, and a senior hot classmate had fallen from the heavens, making me prepare to get into a relationship. With such concerning circumstances, I might as well have sacrificed a lot. When I thought to here, I suddenly stood up and strode to the front of Ru Ting. I held her hand that she had put on Fang Yu Ke’s hand, and tightly enveloped it: “Ru Ting, there are many things that come with a price. When you get into Peking University, you also need to sacrifice things. The time for your

sacrifice has come.”

Ru Ting became like a statue there. After a long time, a familiar sentence of “Idiot” came again from Fang Yu Ke’s mouth.

We waited in line for half an hour, when it finally got to Ru Ting and me. I was put to the left side, Ru Ting was put to the right side. Ru Ting’s eyes watched Fang Yu Ke anxiously. With that expression, even I felt distressed. But I couldn’t pity or begrudge for much longer, as my legs trembled, myself. I learned Ru Ting’s expression and looked at the doctor, saying: “Big brother doctor, my blood vessels are very thin, and very hard to find. You better find someone to help you, and fight through it. We can’t be like the nurse back at my village who thought my arm was like a carrot. It’s such a shame that we cannot insert a hedgehog instead.”

The doctor laughed: “What school did you come from? So poor. Even though you’re a little fatter, aren’t your blood vessels just as obvious?”

When I heard this, I became unhappy: “How am I fat, how am I fat? At the most I only have some baby fat, okay?” The doctor pointed at my report and said: “Isn’t it written that you’re above 50kg here?” After he finished I heard Fang Yu Ke secretly laughing at the side. I glared angrily at him. I internally said: Do you know this is a national secret? I’ve let you off lightly. It’s good that I’m not like that [Mu Wan Qing](#). When the secret is exposed, she immediately marries someone who knows the secret. Otherwise I really would have let you off extremely lightly....

While I was being mad, the doctor’s soft tube had been placed onto my arm. Ru Ting had also had it tied to one of her hands. Her other hand, tightly held Fang Yu Ke’s hand. I only hated that I was all alone, with no one to lean on. I definitely couldn’t hold the doctor’s hand right? Alas, if only I had a boyfriend. My heart felt sad. When I looked up, I saw Fang Yu Ke’s expression. He kept on looking at me. The moment I saw this I also looked at him, and immediately looked away. I felt really weird, but I didn’t know where I felt weird. I hadn’t thought it through when I saw the doctor’s tubing already came out. Fang Yu Ke lightly said, at the other end: Don’t look at it. I used my peripheral vision to see that Ru Ting had already put her entire body in Fang Yu Ke’s embrace. I thought, What do you want to her not see? The other party can only see your chest now.

Haha, are you wanting her to stop looking at your chest? Unless you don't have abs? I evilly laughed. The doctor had already taken out the needle now. When he was extubating me, he said, "Aren't you pretty brave? You looked at the needle for so long, and still laughed after the shot. When I saw your fear just now, I thought you would faint." I also felt it was very magical.

It was really weird. How could I look at the needle drawing my blood? If this had been in the past, this would have been an unthinkable thing. The doctor pressed a cotton ball onto it, and said, press it for two minutes. Don't let go. I agreed. I turned my head, Ru Ting was sobbing. I suddenly felt that girls should be like Ru Ting. A little fragile, making guys have a sense of accomplishment. As for me, boys were strange enough. My happy heart became a little serious. Ru Ting didn't move in Fang Yu Ke's embrace. At this point, I didn't make any motions to leave or to stay. It was just that Ru Ting's doctor opposite her couldn't continue to watch this, and immediately yelled: Next. Only then did Ru Ting begin to slowly stand up, leaning on Fang Yu Ke.

I slowly followed the two of them out. I hadn't walked a few steps when I lost my cotton ball. A little bit of blood seeped through the area that had just been poked. Not after too long, it condensed into a small blood pearl. I wiped it with my hand, and blood came out again. I wiped it again. Right when I was enjoying it, Fang Yu Ke came out of nowhere, holding a small adhesive bandage. He coolly threw it to me, helping Ru Ting at the same time, while also saying: Idiot, aren't your blood platelets doing well?

I had already become accustomed to his poisonous tongue, and I said "Thanks", as I ran out of the school hospital. I still had some self knowledge. Other people were in a pair, so from one glance, I could tell that this rascal had prepared this bandage for Ru Ting. Giving it to me, what would Ru Ting think. I better not be the third unwanted guest (in the relationship). If I wasn't careful I would break the happy couple, and that would be a big crime. Even if my IQ wasn't high, how could my EQ be low? Hmph, you rascal, I oblige.

[1] qie: Interjection that is scoffing or dismissive[2] It was something that happened in a second. You couldn't be too excessive when killing someone or else you would touch the ground. You just had to reach out your neck a bit, and

it would end immediately: Lin Lin is thinking about how she will face the needle. The “too excessive” part refers to the fact that the doctors will be at least a little lenient. As long as she is willing to step over the line by “reaching out her neck” the needle situation will end immediately and only take a second.

Chapter 4.1-The Revolution is Inviting Guests to Dinner

Chapter 4: The Revolution is Inviting Guests to Dinner Part 1

After two more days, school was about to begin choosing classes. Even though this break was so long, from June to August, when I saw it was about to end, I felt very reluctant. After I finished purchasing some household items with my dormmates, I decided to eat and drink well to celebrate marrying into a wealthy family [1]. But when the time came, my dormmates' parents still hadn't left. I was embarrassed to drag people around to eat with me. The more important part was that I hadn't seen Xiao Xi for two days. How could I create an opportunity for me and Xiao Xi to eat together? Inviting him alone would definitely show that I was immodest. I calculated with the abacus in my heart, grabbed the opportunity, and I found the name of the person I dubbed the "Cruel Killer". On the other end, some very beautiful music drifted over. That really made one forget oneself due to its extravagance. Paying money for such a beautiful ringtone for someone to enjoy. That song played to halfway, and Fang Yu Ke still hadn't answered the phone. I hung up and could only lie on the bed for an afternoon nap, with nothing else to do.

I didn't know how long I had slept when I was suddenly woken up by hunger. I grabbed my cell phone to see the time, and saw that four calls from the "Cold Killer" had been unanswered. I just thought of calling him back, when my phone rang. I glanced at the name, and it was still "Cold Killer". I answered it: "Hello? What is the matter that you are so anxious to get ahold of me?" The other side was silent for a while: "Are you a pig? I called you so many times, you didn't even hear it!" I felt a little confused: "What? I was just sleeping? If you have things to say, quickly say them. If you need to fart, quickly fart. I still need to go to the bathroom."

"What's the matter? Isn't it you who called me? Idiot."

I paused, recalling what I had done before going to sleep that I had actually called this person. The person at the other end was impatient: "I can't stand you

anymore. I'm hanging up."

"Wait, I thought of it, I thought of it. I want to bring you out for a meal."

There was a moment of silence. I thought the signal wasn't good. "Hello, can you hear me? I said I want to treat you for a meal. Give me some face big senior brother~"

"Where are we going to eat?"

F**k, I had invited him out for dinner, but his attitude was still just as cold. "The place is hard to find. We haven't been here for a few days, and I'm not familiar with the area. What about this, you can ask Xiao Xi to come along too. I also have to thank him for his help these past few days. Incidentally, we can also let him be a guide for us and introduce a place to eat." I held the cell phone with one hand, regretfully unable to make some applause for myself with the other hand. My IQ was definitely over 150. How could I be so smart? These words were much more reasonable and full of restraint! The other end paused for again, and said: "I will do my best." He didn't wait for me to speak when he hung up the phone. You brat. If you have to save energy for the power bill, then don't keep pausing when you speak. Really! But when I thought of eating dinner with Xiao Xi I made a triumphant gesture: Oh yeah! After I finished speaking, I looked even more silly as I had a lion's head, going to the bathroom to wash my face.

Very early in the morning of the next day, I received a short text from Fang Yu Ke, it was so thick (*to the point*), that it couldn't have been thicker: Guolin Restaurant, 7:00 pm, meet at the entrance. F**k, sending a telegram, and he was even personal messaging me! I replied: Ok, is he going? I waited for n minutes. The brat didn't even reply to me again. I estimated he had begun his love affair with his girlfriend.

I hadn't seen Xiao Xi in the previous days. My heart was about to pop out of its chest. Now we were finally about to meet, and I was a little flustered. Oh, unless liking a person was always like this? Worried, uneasy? I turned my head towards the window, and thought about what Xiao Xi was doing now? Maybe he was sleeping? No, he probably wasn't able to sleep as well as I could; reading? Probably. What book? Comic books? No, that was what I read. Textbook? No, too boring. He was definitely reading a very deep book, completely English-the

mysteries of the universe or the analysis of global financial trends. Where he was not satisfied with the author's explanation, he would definitely use a pencil to write his own point of view. As for where the author's point of view was especially brilliant, he would definitely draw a large wavy line. Mm, right, he would use a clean slender finger, to flip the page, one by one. Then, he would immerse himself completely in the book.

"What are you thinking about? That beautiful?" Wang Jie's beautiful legs stepped over and broke my line of thinking. Everyone was a young person. Not after too long, did we mix together like a family. I laughed: "I'm thinking of my husband."

"Oh, what family's *Gong Zi* is it? Introduce him, introduce him." Wang Jie's gossip ears had already perked up.

"The secret cannot be revealed." I laughed. "I should still wait until we get to the husband stage, if there is an opportunity, I'll introduce him to you."

"Are you guys being warm or is it your one-sided thoughts. Seeing you laughing like □□, I'm guessing it's your own thoughts."

"Hey, what are you saying? Why is it that it's one sided thinkings just because I laugh like □□? How do you smile mysteriously?"

"You won't understand this. This mysterious smile is absolutely shy, you have to look soft yet deep and far. I'll perform it for you." When she finished, Wang Jie pretended to be a wise and virtuous woman.

I laughed, "You are acting Lin Dai Yu."

"It's just like your female beauty exceeds that of the whole world. Just now, I saw you looking like your saliva was about to fall onto the ground." Wang Jie laughed.

"Oh, you really have portrayed it accurately. I really am having a crush. The other person doesn't know my thoughts. Look at you and your boyfriend, calling each other until a cocoon could form in your ear. Aren't I helping you spread the phone call weight around? Maybe not after too long, this dormitory's calls will come to me."

"Can you laugh a little more unrestrained?" Wang Jie pushed me, "Look at

yourself, you've fallen in love for the first time right?"

"Expert, a definite expert. How did you know?"

"When I was dating, you were still behind me. Alas, love is a little complicated. If it doesn't play out correctly, it can range from a sad heart to heavy self-mutilation."

"Pooey, pooey. How can it not work out?! Even if it doesn't work out it has to! My mom said, my first mission is to find a boyfriend in this place. How can I live up to my mother's beautiful expectations?"

[1] celebrating marrying into a wealthy family: To Lin Lin this refers to getting into the highly prestigious university, Peking University. Thus, she is celebrating her union with Peking University as she officially becomes a student at one of the "richest" academic atmospheres of all time.

Chapter 4.2-The Revolution is Inviting Guests to Dinner

Chapter 4.2-The Revolution is Inviting Guests to Dinner

“Pooey, pooey. How can it not work out?! Even if it doesn’t work out it has to! My mom said, my first mission is to find a boyfriend in this place. How can I live up to my mother’s beautiful expectations?”

“Ok ok ok, Lin Lin, I will just wish you success.” Wang Jie turned and sat at her own seat. She carried a mirror and began to do her makeup.

I turned and stared at Wang Jie putting eyeliner onto her eyes. Wang Jie turned and looked at me: “When you stare at me like this, how can I do my makeup, I feel so uncomfortable.”

“Hahahaha, Jie’er, why don’t you also help me do my makeup. I have a date tonight.”

Wang Jie laughed: “All right, no problem.” After she finished she began to put something onto my face. She wiped it on as she said, “Your skin is a little dry. The T-area [1] is a little oily. Mm, here is a small pimple.”

“Big sister, can you stop being so against me. If you continue on like this I will soon be reduced to a yellow faced grandmother. I’m only like this because I was too agitated these past few days. Isn’t this testing your makeup skills? I also have a date tonight, so give me confidence okay?”

“Oh, what yellow faced grandmother? Why would a yellow faced grandmother have a pimple on her face? You are definitely not a yellow faced grandmother. Haha. Say something serious. Put some light makeup on for your first date then, so that you’ll be a little soft and comfortable.”

After half an hour, Wang Jie shoved the mirror into my hand: “Look at my handiwork. I’ve made you into someone who people will love at first sight, a little fairy at whom flowers will upon seeing you.”

“It’s uncanny ah, uncanny ah!” I tutted praise in front of the mirror. When I

looked it over, my pimples, and dark whatever had all disappeared. Another circle had been added around my eyes.

I fiercely hugged Wang Jie: “Wait for *lao niang* to complete my mission, and when I return, I’ll treat you to meat.”

- Lao niang-Referring to herself as an “old woman”

I looked at the map. Guolin wasn’t that far from Peking Uni. I estimated that it would take about 10 minutes for me to get there. In the face of modesty, I decided to arrive there punctually. I never stopped checking my watch. When it hardly reached 6:50, I was so anxious to set off.

Fang Yu Ke and Xiao Xi were already talking at the entrance of Guolin. From faraway, the two hot guys posing as door gods in front of Guolin was really a little romantic. I readjusted my breathing, walked over, and waved my hand: “*Hi*, sorry, I came late.”

- She says “Hi” in English

Fang Yu Ke turned to look at me. He was started for a moment before he turned his cold face back and said: Let’s go. I automatically followed him and walked to Xiao Xi’s side, saying, “Xiao Xi, did you wait long?”

Xiao Xi shook his head: “No, no. I just went to the economic center and almost missed the time. I just ran over. The person who waited should probably be Fang Yu Ke who waited for a long time.”

When we were ordering food, I asked Xiao Xi what he wanted to drink. Xiao Xi asked: “Do you guys drink beer?”

Fang Yu Ke said: Anything is fine with me. I wrung my hands: “You guys drink. I won’t drink any. I can’t drink alcohol. Haha.”

Actually my alcoholic capacity was still pretty good. From a young age, my dad would use chopsticks dipped in rice wine to feed me. Now, drinking beer was just like playing around. Such a great summer day, drinking beer was obviously the solution. Thus it was only unfortunate that I hard to wear this princess dress, and put on some light makeup. It wouldn’t be according if I staked wine. It would

be bad if I scared Xiao Xi. I should still endure it first.

On the table, it made my arm stretch so much before I could pick some of my dish, so I gave up. No matter how attractive it was, I automatically filtered it out. I drank a cup of cold water, ate a bite of the dish, and slowly chewed, slowly swallowing. All the women on television ate like this. Even if my stomach was very hungry, I was more afraid that I would scare my future husband. I grabbed a napkin and wiped my mouth, when I recited the line I had memorized before I ate: Xiao Xi, what should I do in University to make it meaningful?

I didn't know what Fang Yu Ke had choked on but he continued to cough. I looked up at the sky: God, at the same time you dropped me meat pies, please also crush this person to death. Fang Yu Ke is basically my nemesis. Every time when things are so great, the atmosphere will be ruined by him.

Xiao Xi laughed, his eyes narrowed to become cute crescents. His dimples deepened: "It depends on what you want to pursue. If you want peaceful days, you can learn just like how you did in high school; if you have ever thought of enriching your life, you can think of participating in many clubs. Peking Uni has a lot of clubs. There is the "Contestation between the 100 Clubs"; in the beginning of school, each club will begin to recruit new people. You can participate in one or two clubs according to your interest or you can go find an internship. Some people have already decided if they want to go out of the country or test into graduate school before they go to the school. Different goals may make life different."

The moment I heard this, my heart cooled. If I said: My goals are to not get kicked out of school, and find a guy to marry? I hesitated and said: "Oh oh, entering school, I don't think that my days will be easy. What are your plans for the future?"

Xiao Xi didn't say anything. After a while he sighed and said: "I plan to go out of the country to study Finance, and try to get a scholarship. But my dad is not in good health right now. I do not feel at ease."

Seeing Xiao Xi's sudden depression, I didn't know how to comfort him, so I could only say: "If one's health isn't good then go see the doctor more often, eat more medicine. It will get better."

Fang Yu Ke drank a sip of beer: “You idiot. Eat some more medicine. Does anyone say things the way you do? If you continue on like this, his father will become a doctor.”

I also felt I said something wrong. I immediately said: “Oh oh, I really don’t know how to say things. I meant, heaven helps the worthy. You don’t need to be too worried.”

Really, my heart was very uncomfortable. Xiao Xi’s grades were so good. He could get a scholarship if he went out of the country. I was learning German, so if I went out of the country, I could go to Germany. Besides getting the interest of the American imperialists, I wouldn’t have anything else to do. Plus, I didn’t even know if I could graduate, so getting a scholarship was only but a faraway dream.

The air pressure at the table became lower instantaneously. To liven up the atmosphere, I immediately said: “For a beautiful tomorrow, cheers!”

Fang Yu Ke laughed, saying: “Cheers!”

I added: “To the smile of the millennial iceberg (referring to FYK), cheers!”

When it was □□o’ clock, I pretended to go to the bathroom to prepare to check out. The waiter said, the gentleman from before had already paid. I turned and saw them and lowly said: which one? The one with dimples or the one wearing glasses? The waiter pointed to Fang Yu Ke: “The one that looks like Won Bin [2].”

Later I recalled, I thought this person’s aesthetic appearance was really strange. I had obviously thought that Fang Yu Ke’s face was big and square, but why did the older lady and the waiter all say it was like Won Bin? Won Bin had some dimples, okay.....

I ran back and secretly asked Fang Yu Ke: “Why are you helping me pay?”

Fang Yu Ke glanced at me: “I am not used to letting girls treat me to dinner, even if you aren’t like a girl in the first place.”

I gritted my teeth and asked: “Where do I not seem like a girl?”

Fang Yu Ke purposely looked at my head, word by word he said: “What-do-

you-think?”

I felt like all the blood in my body went up to my face. But since Xiao Xi was by the side, I couldn't attack, so I could only swallow my temper and say: “Just wait, Fang Yu Ke!”

I snorted. The peaceful Xiao Xi said: “Are you full? If you're full we can go.”

I stood up, preparing to leave. Fang Yu Ke suddenly said to Xiao Xi: “Xiao Xi you go first, me and her still have some matters.”

I glared at him, and tried not to move my mouth: “When did we have something private to say between us?”

Fang Yu Ke pulled me to sit, and said to Xiao Xi: “We really have something coming up. Her mom just called me, and said that when she called her (LL) it didn't go through.”

I suspiciously took out my phone. That was wrong. My phone had no problem.

Xiao Xi looked at me, then looked at Fang Yu Ke. He laughed and said all right.

I watched Xiao Xi leave just like that. Frustrated, I asked Fang Yu Ke: “What matter?”

Fang Yu Ke was a little embarrassed and said to me, “That matter concerning women.”

When I saw his hesitant appearance, I got angry and stood up, loudly asking: “What women matter? Say it clearly. What is the blind trouble?”

Fang Yu Ke pointed to my dress: “Behind there....it's red....”

When I heard this, I immediately used my hand to block behind me: “Why didn't you....didn't you say it earlier?”

Fang Yu Ke lightly whispered a sentence; “I said you aren't like a girl, but you don't have to use this to prove it.”

I felt my face was hot, I aggressively roared to him: “Only the heavens, the earth, you and me can know of this matter, got it?”

Fang Yu Ke didn't say anything. My heart was actually very messy. If I knew this

earlier, I wouldn't have drank ice water. Unlucky aunt [3], why did it come so much earlier. I bet it was that as an old person, she had not acclimatized yet. But continuing to sit was not the solution.

I said to Fang Yu Ke: "Didn't you promise my mom that you would take care of me well?"

Fang Yu Ke nodded.

I followed with: "Before I came upstairs, I saw that there is a Jeansweat store nearby and a convenience shop. Buy me some pants or a dress, either is fine. By the way, by the way you need to buy me more sanitary napkins. I will give you the money in a moment."

Fang Yu Ke was silent a moment. He watched me, and lowered his head as he went down the stairs.

After a long time, Fang Yu Ke lugged a bag of stuff back. I immediately grabbed it and rushed to the bathroom.

I opened the plastic bag. Inside was a pair of black pants, a black dress, and many different brands of sanitary napkins. I gloated happily. The rascal had probably dawdled for a long time before grabbing a pile of napkins. Oh God, oh God, even though I told you I want to crush him, remember not to hurt me. Why are you using me as the bait?

I changed into a pair of different pants and went out the door. Fang Yu Ke was already waiting outside the bathroom. I patted his shoulder, and said: "Let's go, it's been hard on you."

Fang Yu Ke coldly said: "The heavens know, the earth knows, you know, I know of this matter."

I laughed: "Got it got it. In the future, if your Ru Ting is met with this, you'll have experience. Right?"

Fang Yu Ke's face immediately became long: "Your stupid head should stop thinking about that. In total, you only have such a tiny bit of brain cells. If you keep thinking about other things, you don't even need to be on the right path."

I was happy: "How did you know my brain cells weren't of enough use? Usually

I rarely use my brain cells. I have to transfer them to use them, like I am Einstein, do you understand? I got 140 points on my Gao Kao. 140! What did you get?”

Fang Yu Ke said: “150.”

I didn’t talk anymore. When I talked to him, I felt no particular sense of accomplishment. When I was taking the Gao Kao, I didn’t know how my brain resuscitated. Before, getting 125 in math was already very good for me. But I somehow got 140 on the Gao Kao. If I had to retake the test again, I estimated I could only get 110. How did this rascal get full points? After second grade I didn’t know the concept of full points!

[1] The area including the forehead and the nose. This is often referred to as the T-area because it forms a T shape. A lot of people exude oil from this area.

[2] Won Bin: Won Bin is a South Korean actor. He first gained wide popularity in 2000 after starring in the television drama Autumn in My Heart and has since gained critical acclaim for his performances in the films Taegukgi, Mother and The Man from Nowhere.

[3] Aunt: Another word for period. Throughout that paragraph she refers to her period as a person.

Chapter 5.1-Choosing Electives is a Technical Activity

Chapter 5 Part 1—Choosing Electives is a very Technical Activity

I entered the school that year. Peking University allowed you four weeks to pick your courses. Besides professional courses, everyone could also freely pick elective courses. You could pick any class as long as you got the required credit hours. I grabbed the thick selection book, and began to ponder which classes I would not fail at. I opened the new students manual casually and found the failing penalties after a time. Peking Uni was still considered extremely selective when entering, but extremely lenient when exiting it. To take care of the weak students that were unable to adapt, if new students failed, as long as they made up the class their second year it would not be included on the transcript. The new students manual also cautioned us not to overselect the first year, as to prevent failing from not enough energy. Of course, I would solemnly obey this instruction, as my brain had enough to worry about with the professional courses. As long as I could get all my credits in four years, everything would end.

I turned to ask the others: “Have you learned German before?”

They were really very honest: “No, but after I applied for this department, I applied for a summer class for a while.”

I could not believe it and sighed: “You guys just finished the Gao Kao and you still participated in a summer class? Why is it that after I took the Gao Kao, I felt like this servant* was liberated, and became as wild as a crazy horse? You guys are too shameful!”

- She is referring to herself in third person (more specifically, she is referring to herself as ‘this servant’)

Julie laughed: “Wasn’t everyone afraid of the huge competition? We all said we can’t lose at the starting line. I heard that there were also people who grew up speaking German around also. Our days won’t be easy!”

I sighed, “This kind of crime is simply outrageous! My God~~ why don’t we just

hit a wall and forget about it?!”

Wen Tao comforted me: “Don’t think more about it. Learning German for these four years, you don’t need to learn math, and you probably don’t need to read English. The objective is just to let us concentrate on reading the German language. And the language relies on diligence to learn it. Everyday we have to wake up early to read it for an hour. Then it will definitely be fluent.”

I looked down: “Everyday in the early morning...then won’t you have returned to high school? I can’t...”

But as a single person, I could not reverse this trend.

Our floor was all from the foreign language department. Every morning, a group of girls would have a cup full of water in the bathroom to practice their sounds and pronunciations. The first time I heard it, I thought I was in the suburbs, and what I heard was the sound of frogs. So I could only practice with water every day, but I didn’t know why, every time while I practiced, I would swallow the water. This made me full of nausea. Even if I moved or didn’t, I would be stimulated: there would often be a lot of girls’ screams beside me: “I pronounced it, I pronounced it, listen ———”

Oh, they really had too much against people. My intelligence couldn’t compare with the others, unless it was that my organs were a little lacking than others’s organs? Why could everyone sound it, while I hadn’t made any improvement at all this past month. I forcibly opened my mouth as I looked into the bathroom mirror, and began to analyze my oral structure. Right when my mouth was about to get sore, someone patted my back, “Hey Lin Lin!”

I closed my mouth with difficulty. From the mirror, I saw Ru Ting standing by my side. I turned and greeted her: “*Hi*, so coincidental.”

Ru Ting laughed, “We live in the same building. I can never find you at all. What were you doing just now? Do you have a cavity?”

You’re the one who’s grown a cavity! I took a step back and said, how can the one who has a cavity be her! I laughed: “No, no, it’s just that there’s a little inflammation on the tonsils.”

Ru Ting anxiously asked: “Did you eat medicine?”

I waved my hands: “There’s no need to eat medicine. Drinking water is fine. The Beijing weather is a little more dry, one should drink more water.”

“That’s right. You and Yu Ke are all Southerners. Coming to the North, you must not be used to the climate.” She kept washing the grapes as she told me, “You should eat more fruits. I just bought these from the downstairs market. After I finish washing them I will send them to Yu Ke. He doesn’t know that he should buy some fruits either. Every time he will wait for me to buy them before he eats them.”

A lover was really scary. Even after three sentences she would not leave her man. I said: “Yu Ke also bought some fruit. Last time I saw him buy some grapes.”

“Really? In the past he didn’t like eating fruits. Washing was too much trouble, so he just didn’t buy them to eat.” Ru Ting pouted.

The cold-faced killer required too much high maintenance. I was never too much trouble. It wasn’t a big deal to not wash them and eat it directly. I laugh, embarrassed: “That is because he has you to wash them, so he purposely doesn’t wash them to wait for you to send them over after you wash them.

Wear it 1000s upon 10000s of times, but don’t wear boot-licking*. I was very familiar with this saying. Ru Ting laughed very sweetly, the dimples by her mouth becoming deeper. I thought of Xiao Xi’s dimples. They were very deep and sweet.

- *No matter how many lies you tell it is easy to expose a secret, but just be flattering. Even if you add many extravagant embellishments, when people hear it their hearts are soothed, and they no longer take it seriously, so as long as you have thick skin (stubborn), you can say whatever you want. (TL: I really did my best to translate that saying literally in the story, but still ended up with something akin to crap.)

Ru Ting asked me: “How did you meet Yu Ke?”

See, see, she had begun to calculate our history. I laughed, and said: “Really, I don’t really know him. Our town was small, and only the two of us got into Peking University. My parents couldn’t accompany over, so they asked him to come over with me. We’ve known each other for a few days.”

“It doesn’t seem like it, haha. I feel like he has known for ages. When I went over to his house for summer break, he said he would come with his parents, and didn’t allow me to accompany him. I didn’t think that in the end, he didn’t allow his parents to stay with him, saying that this would embarrass him, a big man, too much.”

What show was this now? Was she trying to suggest to me that their relationship was already to the stage of meeting each others’ parents, or to tell me that I took advantage of Fang Yu Ke, staying with him in the train for the whole night. Puhlease, that whole night his eyes were glued to National Geographic, and ignored me. I didn’t even speak as much that night as I am now to you. I was a little unhappy, but I pretended I didn’t have a temper and said: “Haha.”

Suddenly I thought of the classic phrase: Most of the time, when I say haha, I don’t really laugh, and my heart thinks go f**k your mom [1].

[1] The phrase comes from 彪悍的人生不需要打伞–牛人语录 aka “Sturdy Life Does Not Need an Umbrella” by– Cattle Quotations. This is an actual book...Lin Lin is really badly influenced!

Chapter 5.2-Choosing Electives is a Technical Activity

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Chapter 5.2-Choosing Electives is a Very Technical Activity

I still wasn't sure what electives to pick. Really, I had very simple requirements for my electives: attendance counted for more than 30% of the final grade, the essay counted for 40% of the total grade, but the test must account for less than 30% of the final grade or there is no test. From my Gao Kao grades and my previous exams, my test scores jump around too much. I couldn't guarantee that God wouldn't be too busy to attend to me half a year later. If I didn't test in, I would still have my attendance and my essay to help out. Even though I didn't have my confidence in my papers, but at least, I could do this thing slowly, repeatedly. Unlike tests where it was an instantaneous outbreak. The only thing I was sure of was attendance. In order to not fail, I would definitely go all out, even in rain or shine.

I hugged my classes manual, and went with Julie to the various teaching buildings, listening to every elective class. As soon as the teacher announced the course assessment, I would begin my job as a recorder. In fact this time, the teacher's classes were more like the US presidential campaign. The teacher had already packed his first class, and could not wait to say the previous two sentences, followed by applause. Of course the famous brand teachers were eligible to laugh and talk. They didn't have to worry any students would choose their classes, but they had to worry that too many students would choose their class: a 300 seat classroom would be crowded the first two weeks of school. The hallways and even outside the classroom would be packed, and all of it was to see the famous teacher's style. This kind of teacher would "casually" say when the bell rang: "Our class never takes attendance, and disregards all test scores. If you want to listen then listen, if you aren't then go learn by yourself. You guys are young ah, you have more things to do: love, learning, getting together, and the like, not like us, so busy. But I believe that after you have listened to two classes, you will come to this class consciously because my course is not just about learning. I assess very simply. There's one final exam and it is over a

discussion topic.” After he finished speaking, many students rushed up to him and cordially shook hands with the teacher. They asked the teacher to add their name to his class in order to prepare themselves for an utter defeat with the competition from the other classes. Of course, as for me: Hmph, what a joke, what does it mean to not only discuss knowledge? I have not even begun to understand knowledge, how can I learn something beyond knowledge? The risk of failing was too great. X! *(TL: She is crossing out the course from her list with an X)*

I held the thick elective textbook thinking about the remaining classes after all the classes I had eliminated. I asked the person who had come with me, Julie: “Julie, what do you plan to choose? If I keep eliminating on like this, there will be no more classes for me to choose. I can’t choose classes that are too hard, and I cannot choose classes with highly difficult examinations, I can’t choose classes where the teacher looks shameful... say, if I continue on like this, will I end up only taking professional courses this semester?”

Julie rolled her brown eyeball: “No, really I feel as long as you are passionate and enthusiastic about the course you want to choose, then choose any class, and you’ll be able to be excellent. Choosing a husband also goes up to this level. Do you want to choose the same psychology class as me? From a small age, I have always had an interest in psychology, Teacher Sun Dong Dong also has a specialty style.”

I sighed: “It’s another specialty teacher’s class. Right now I am very sensitive to the word “specialty style”. In the future, please do not mention any word concerning specialty style in my presence.”

I disappointedly went with Julie to go buy a bottle of water, but I didn’t think that I would see Xiao Xi at the canteen! Xiao Xi wore a white t-shirt. Underneath, he wore grid-like beach pants. On his feet were flip flops. It was like he was dressed for a seaside resort.

I excitedly ran in front of Xiao Xi: “Hi, Xiao Xi.”

Xiao Xi was first surprised for a moment. Then he revealed his lovely dimples as he smiled: “Hi, why are you here? Where’s Yu Ke?”

“Fang Yu Ke? I don’t know, he isn’t my Siamese twin. I am here to pick classes,

what about you?"

Xiao Xi said: "Oh, I am accompanying my friend to go to the lecture. Tomorrow is the weekend. In the afternoon I am preparing to go to Beidaihe to play. Over summer break I was interning, and didn't have time to go around."

"Oh that is really good." If he invited me in five seconds, I would immediately agree to go with him. I silently counted in my heart, 5-4-3-3-2-1-.9-.8-.....

Julie patted me: "What are you thinking about?"

I looked at Xiao Xi, disappointed: "Then play well and remember to buy me a souvenir."

Xiao Xi laughed: "Of course."

On the way back, Julie asked me: "Who was that hot guy?"

I pretended I couldn't understand her: "What hot guy?"

"Pretending even with me? All the moments I stared at him were worth it. Just now, if I hadn't broken you off, he would have began to let out water from all your staring. You like him?"

"So obvious? I thought I hid it very well! Haha. His name is Xie Duan Xi. We all call him Xiao Xi. He is a grade level higher than us. Before he was our small town's student at another school. That year he got third place in the whole province for Gao Kao. It's only a pity that I didn't know him then. If I knew him earlier, maybe I would have worked my butt off to be third place in the province, and then we would have matched, a perfect match."

"What rubbish. Don't be so anxious to be a mistress. But your guy is a little hot. Your goal is a little high. The road is long ah!" Julie shook her head as she lamented.

"I feel he's pretty good looking, it isn't that hard....." I had less and less confidence. "Then tell me what part of him is bad and give me some confidence."

"I only met him once, how would I know what parts of him are good? But if I have to say something then I would say that his leg hairs are a little too long."

"How does this count as something bad, plus, from just one glance you saw

the other person's leg hairs?"

"I must take advantage of the time to do the most comprehensive analysis of the development as a whole. I heard that people with thick leg hairs will have very strong demands. This may help you defeat some of your opponents. But I just don't know if *you* can resist it?" When she finished, she began to look at me , squinting her eyes like this: ☐☐ (TL: Insert smiley emoji here).

When I finished digesting her words, I put up a vertical thumb, "Valiant! I know you are worthwhile. Let's become sworn sisters."

Julie laughed: "You are pretty interesting. After hearing this, many girls will definitely hit me, in hypocrisy. Really, they are very happy to listen to this. You are real enough, real enough!"

"That's right! I have no other faults, if I have to say a fault, then that is that my person is too real. For example, right now I am thinking, I must choose classes that occur at the same time as Xiao Xi's classes. But, I definitely can't choose classes that are the same as his, even though that would allow us to have more opportunities to communicate with each other. I estimate that the difficulty of the classes he is choosing will be at the A-level. Then I am doomed to fail. As for me, I must put out a long line to catch a big fish and pick a class that is in the same teaching building, and ends at the same time. The best would be if the class is next to his classroom. Then I would have numerous opportunities to see him." I laughed, satisfied, but then I thought: "Oh no, I forgot to ask what classes he chose. I better call him and ask."

Julie hurriedly said: "If you chase after him in broad daylight, I will support you as a sister. But don't forget to not scare the other person. Otherwise you might not even become friends. Even though girls chasing guys is separated by a layer of muslim [1], you also need to see how much experience the girl has and how much experience the guy has. Comparing your guys's natural conditions and the conditions that you must acquire, I am still giving you good advice. Just now, you said you wanted to use a long term plan to gain major returns. Your head must not get heated up [2]. Then all you need is a bright announcement to the world that says, Zhou Lin Lin likes Xie Duan Xi."

"All right, I will now officially employ you for my military matters. Your mission

is to assist me in the next half year, no, get Xiao Xi within three months. This is the longest ‘long-term’ I can stand. I have never had a plan that exceeded three months before.”

“Do I get any benefits? Where’s the dowry?”

“I’ll introduce a hot senior brother for you. I swore the oath so, of course, I am blessed to share.”

“How hot?”

I recalled: “Because each person’s opinions vary; aesthetics can be different to some people, and everyone’s conclusions are different. I don’t dare say that this handsome person is awe-inspiring, but many people say this senior brother looks like Won Bin. Just believe that his eyes are radiant and shining.”

“Then can you bring me, this unknown person, around to look at him a bit?”

“Ok, no problem!” I patted my chest to guarantee it.

I ran to the computer center, secretly downloading a list of professional courses of everyone in the department, finding Xiao Xi’s course locations. Haha, I have no way to know your electives, but the professional course listing is available for everyone to look at!

I adjusted my standard of choosing electives to: A. The time of the course was simultaneous with Xiao Xi’s course and in the same teaching building; B. The geographical location was in sync with Xiao Xi, so that after I finished class, I could see Xiao Xi in the classroom, or when he finished class, I could go into his classroom and talk with him, then prepare for my next class; C. The teacher examination methods met the requirements of my IQ; D. The teacher’s looks could not be aesthetically unpleasing*, even if he was sanctimonious or dignified, it was fine.

- *This is not word for word with what the Chinese said. The Chinese literally said “The teacher could not look like he was sorry to his students”; in other words, the teacher looks so ugly that the students feel sorry for him.

Of the above, at least one of A/B had to be satisfied, C must be satisfied, and D was a bonus.

Choosing classes like this, I painfully found out that as a German student, and a student with no interest in the arts, there was only a class called “Russian Art” that I could choose. It was consistent with my A, C, requirements, which was not easy.

If you are too fond of your child, you will be unable to hide him from the wolves [3]. F**king, let’s go!

[1] Separated by a layer of muslim means that girls pursuing guys is very unconventional

[2] Your head must not get heated up-This means you must not become impulsive.

[3] You have to give up some things to gain other things.

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